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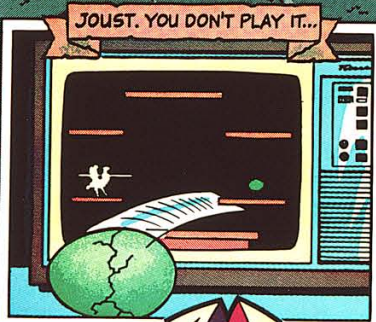
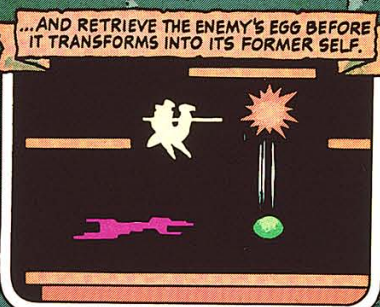
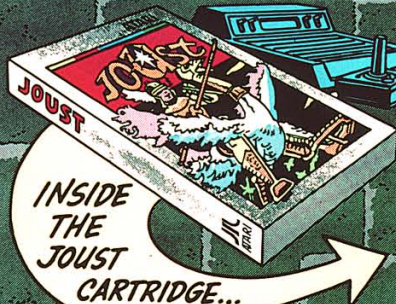
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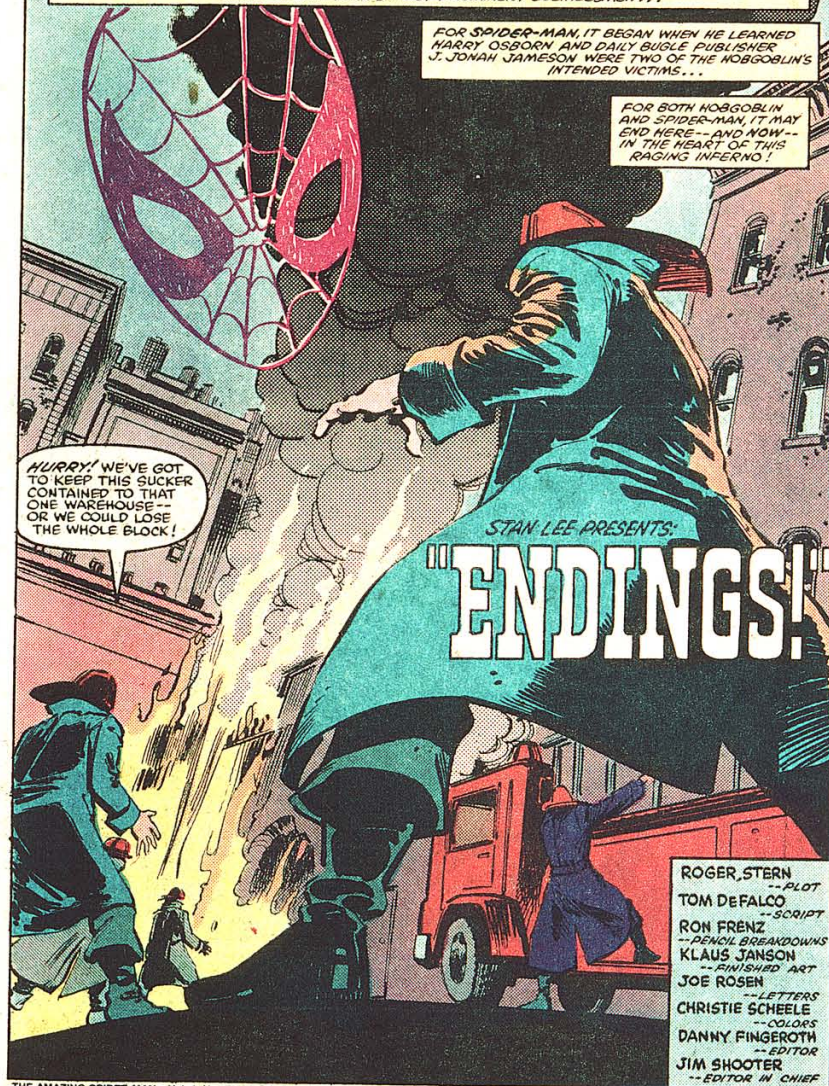
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FOR SPIDER-MAN, IT BEGAN WHEN HE LEARNED HARRY OSBORN AND DAILY BUGLE PUBLISHER J. JONAH JAMESON WERE TWO OF THE HOBGOBLIN'S INTENDED VICTIMS...

FOR BOTH HOBGOBLIN AND SPIDER-MAN, IT MAY END HERE--AND NOW--IN THE HEART OF THIS RAGING INFERNO!



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LIKE A GREAT RAVENOUS REAST, THE BLAZE ROARS--

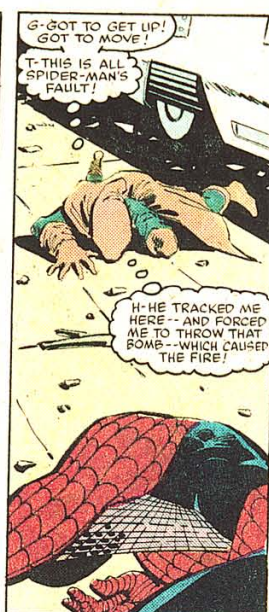
--AS THE COURAGEOUS FIRE-FIGHTERS STRUGGLE AGAINST IT!



WHILE, INSIDE THIS BURNING BUILDING...

--UNN--

C-CAN FEEL THE FLAMES GETTING CLOSER!



G-GOT TO GET UP! GOT TO MOVE!

T-THIS IS ALL SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT!

H-HE TRACKED ME HERE--AND FORCED ME TO THROW THAT BOMB--WHICH CAUSED THE FIRE!



THE JOURNALS! ARE THEY--?!

OH, NO! NO!!



EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM-- DESTROYED!

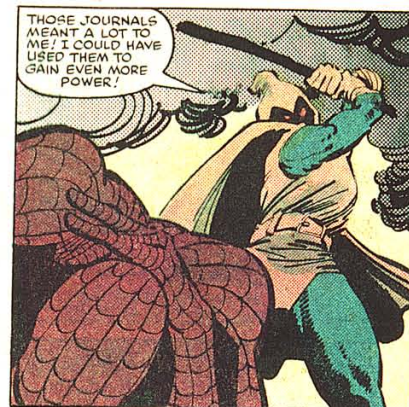
I NEVER MADE COPIES OF THEM! THEIR SECRETS ARE NOW LOST FOREVER!



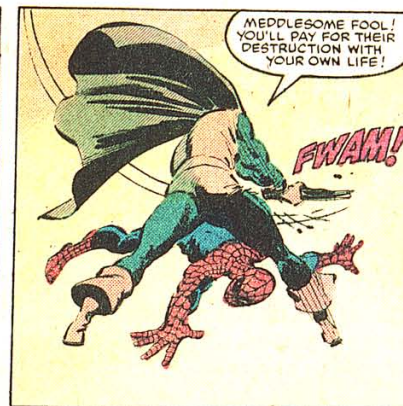
--UHNN--

SO! SPIDER-MAN IS STILL ALIVE!

WELL, HE WON'T BE FOR LONG!



THOSE JOURNALS MEANT A LOT TO ME! I COULD HAVE USED THEM TO GAIN EVEN MORE POWER!



MEDDLESOME FOOL! YOU'LL PAY FOR THEIR DESTRUCTION WITH YOUR OWN LIFE!

FWAM!



KRA-KKK!

OH, NO! THE CEILING--IT'S ABOUT TO GIVE WAY!



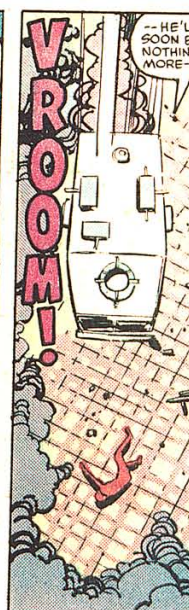
CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME HERE! MUST GET TO SAFETY!

THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS MUST HAVE THIS BUILDING COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY NOW--



--BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER! MY ARMOR-PLATED BATTLE VAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND ANY ASSAULT THAT CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES CAN MOUNT AGAINST IT!

AND AS FOR SPIDER-MAN--

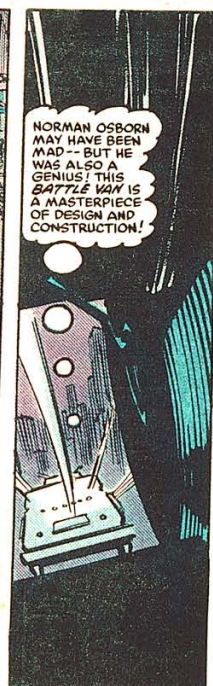
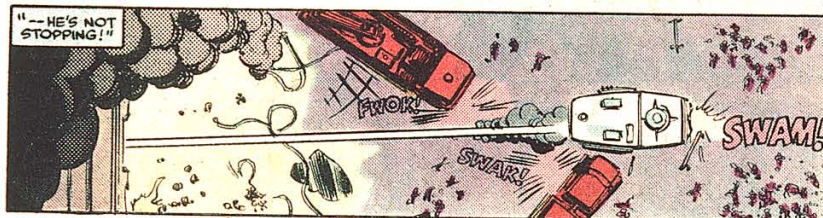
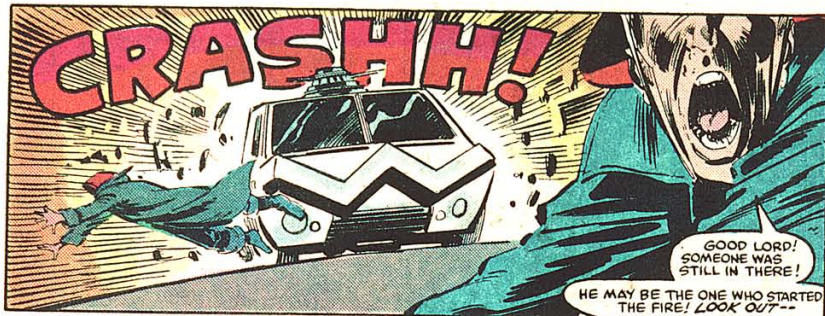


VROOM!

--HE'LL SOON BE NOTHING MORE--



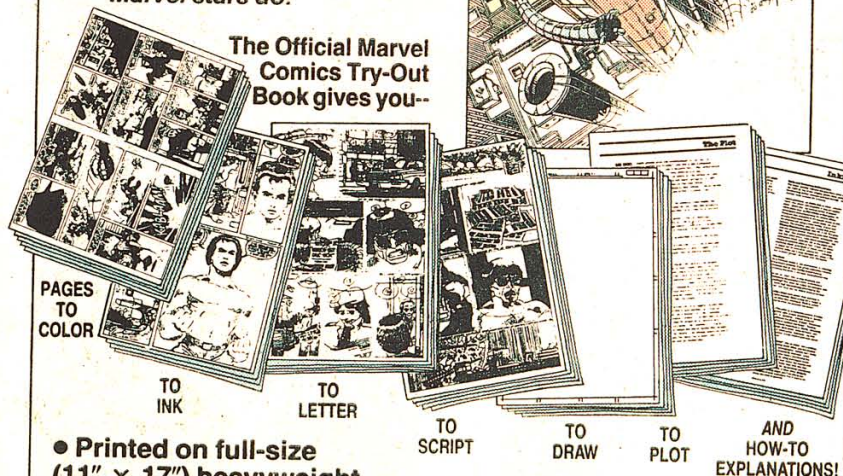
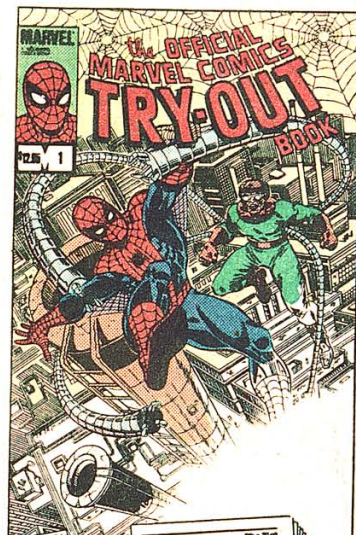
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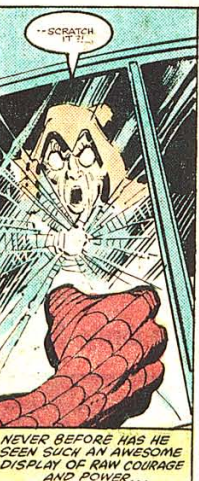
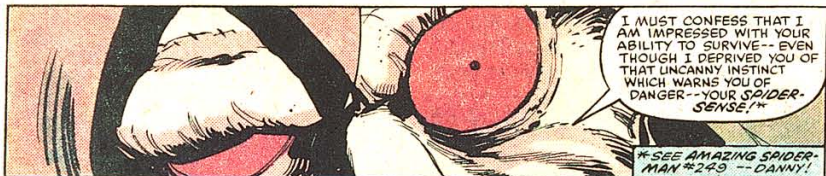
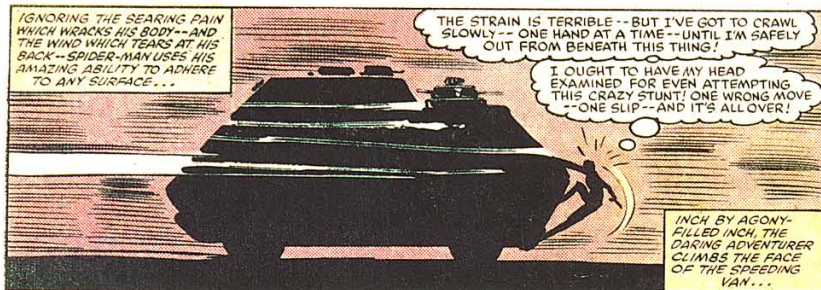
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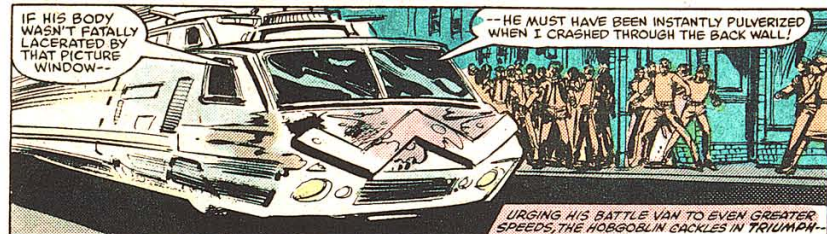
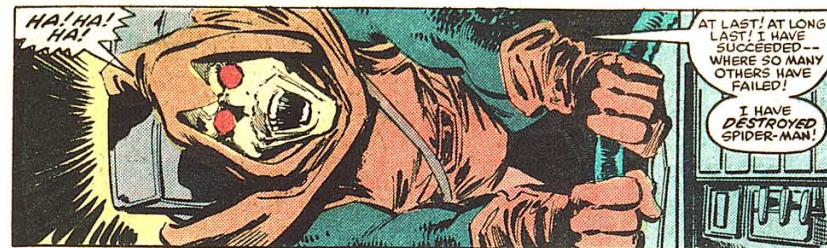
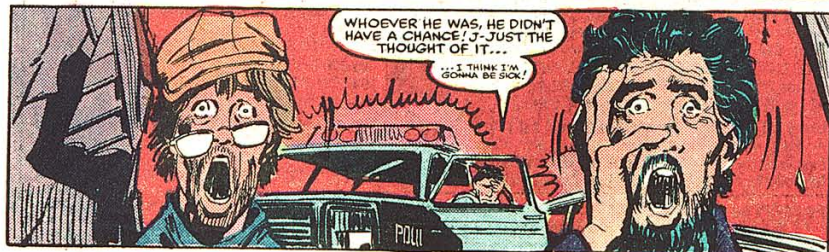
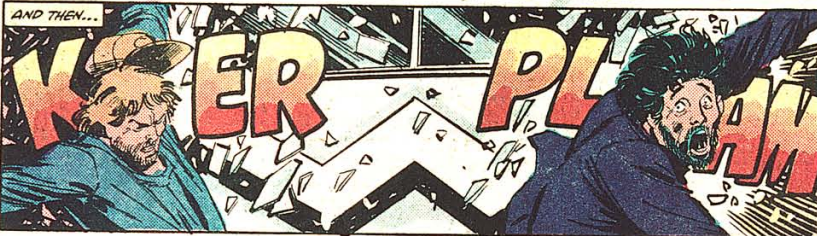
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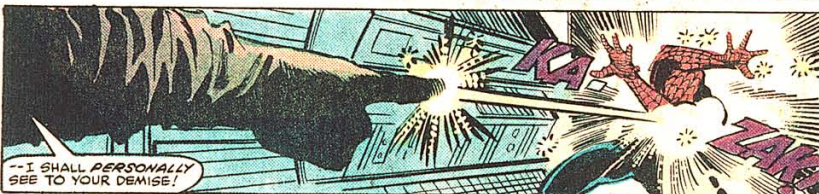
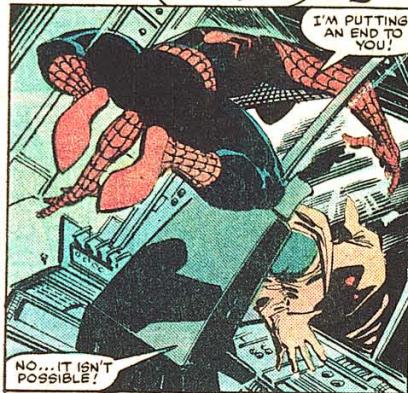
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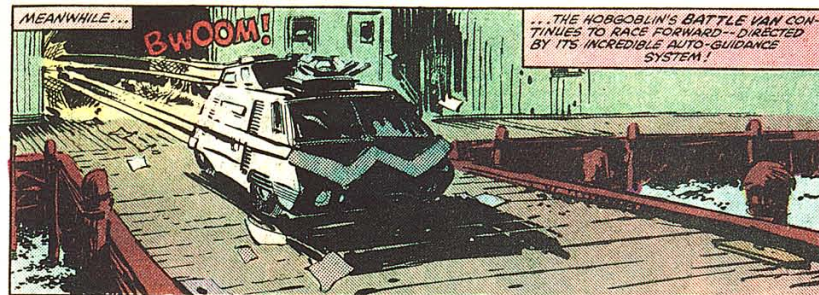
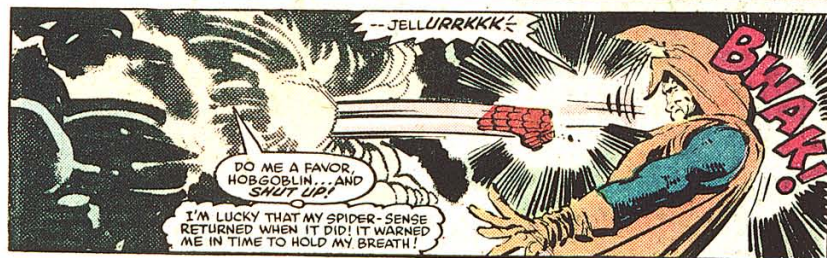
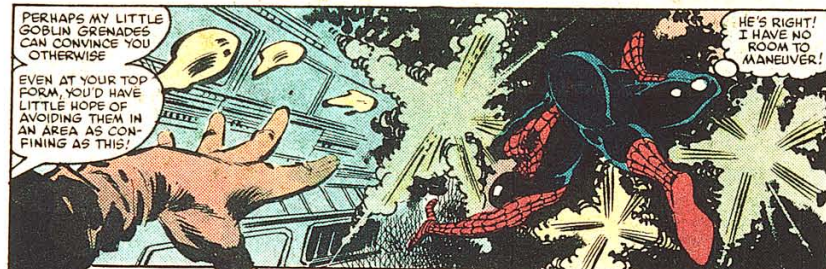


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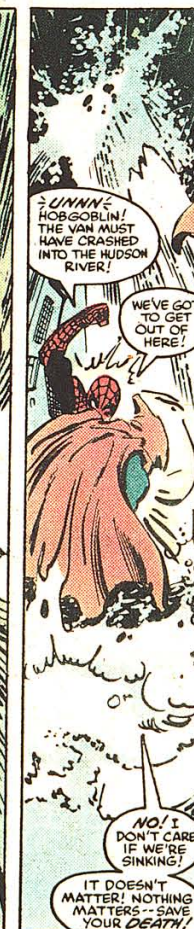
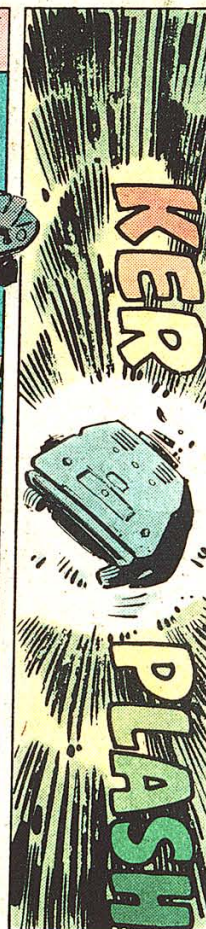
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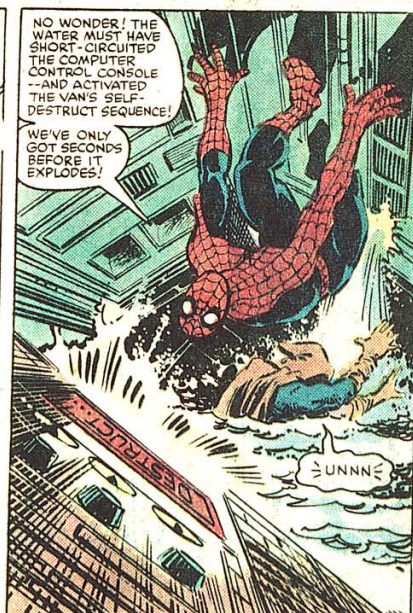
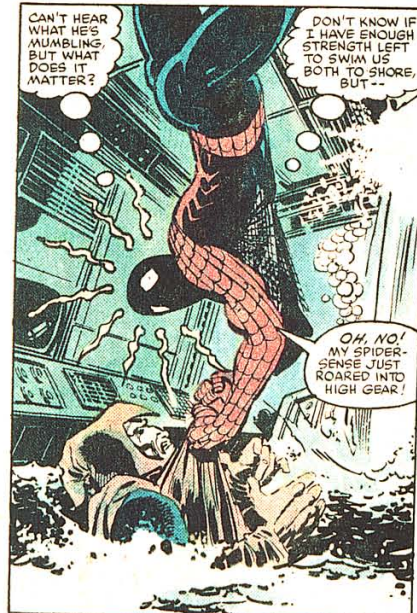
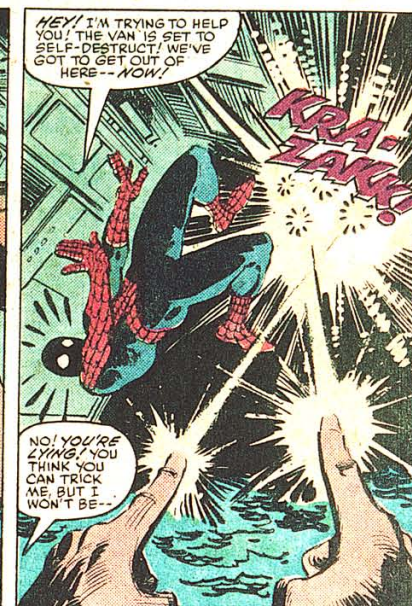
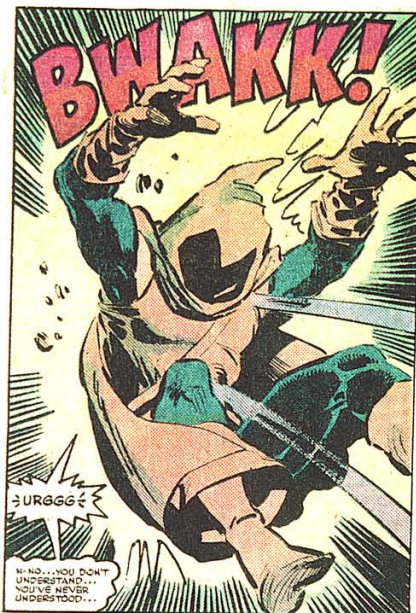
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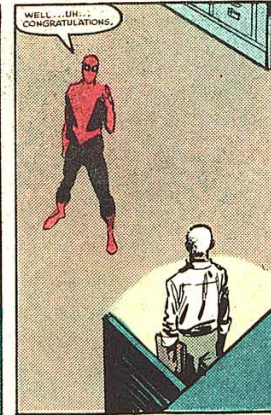
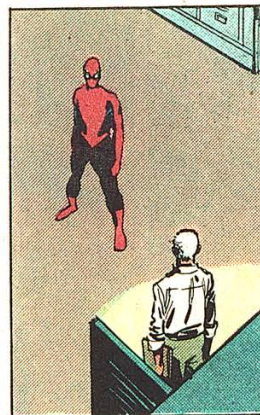
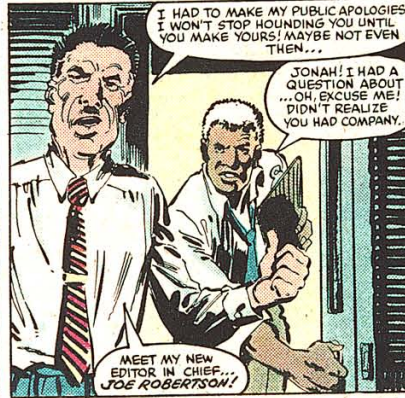
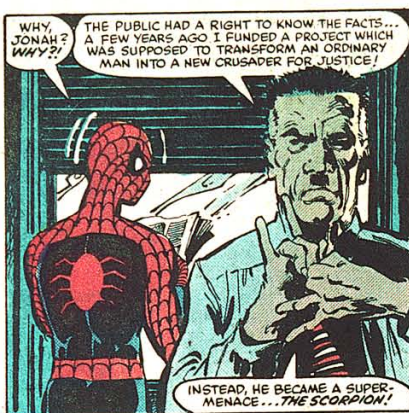


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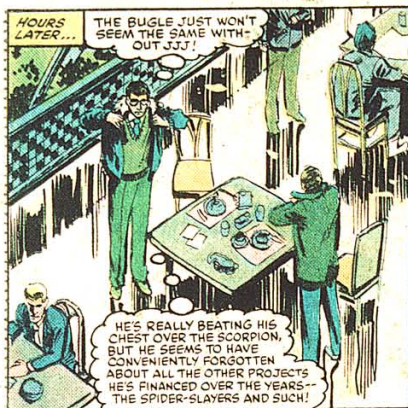
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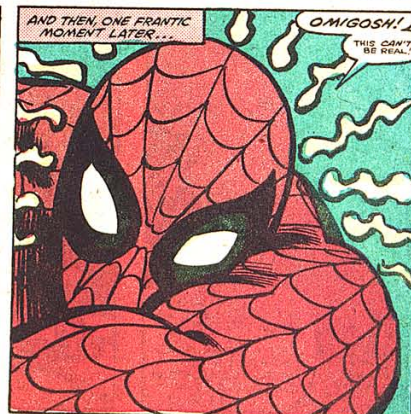
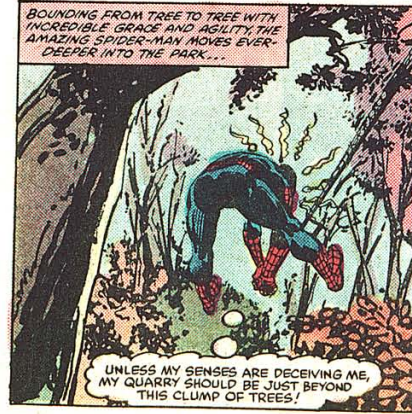
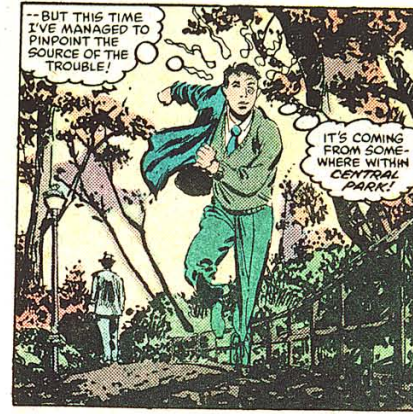
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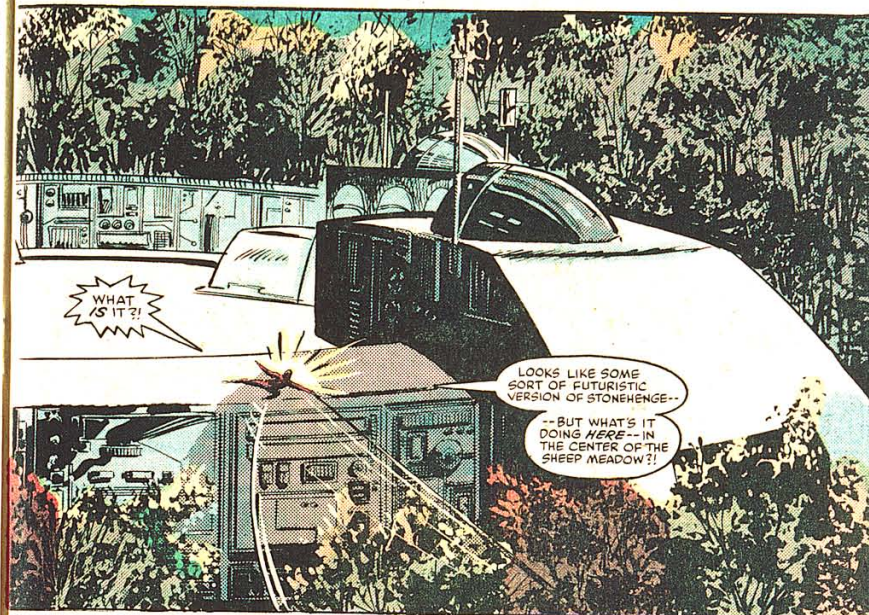
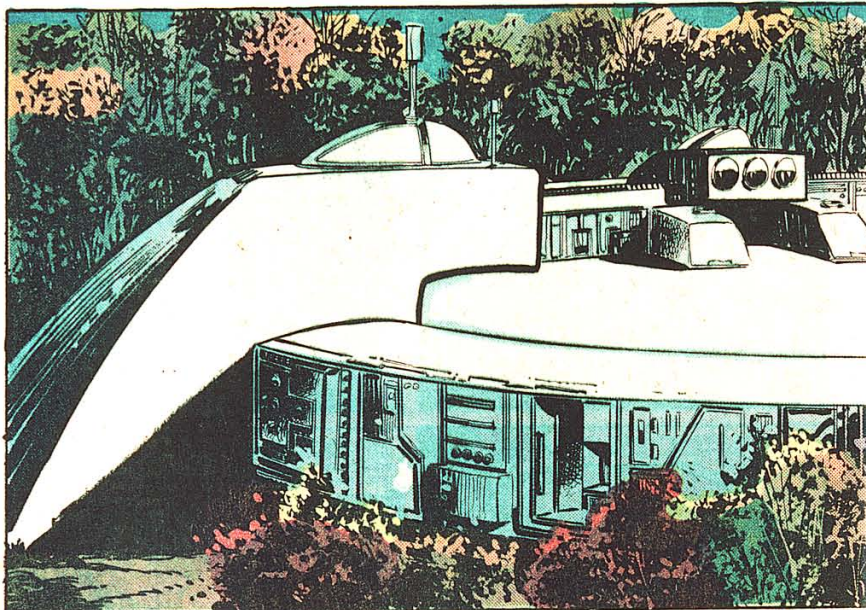
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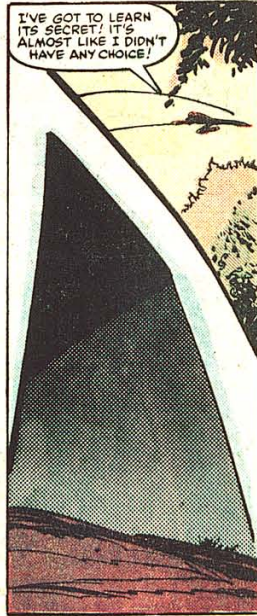


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AND WHAT COULD
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SOME SIGNS TO INDI-
CATE THAT THIS IS
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SET FOR THE NEXT
GEORGE LUCAS EXTRA-
GANZA-- BUT I DON'T
THINK I WILL!



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AN UNBELIEVABLE SENSE OF
FOREBODING! EVERY INSTINCT
I HAVE IS SCREAMING FOR ME
TO RUN AND HIDE-- BUT
I CAN'T!



I'VE GOT TO LEARN
ITS SECRET! IT'S
ALMOST LIKE I DIDN'T
HAVE ANY CHOICE!



SOMETHING WITHIN
ME IS URGING ME
FORWARD-- FORCING
ME TO ENTER!



C-CAN'T STOP
MYSELF!!!!!!

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Well, this is it: the big wrapup of the Spider-Man/Hobgoblin storyline. And by now, anyone who's read this issue must be wondering, where's everyone gone? Everyone meaning, of course, longtime Spider writer and artist Roger Stern and John Romita, Jr. Nothing lasts forever, not even something as hot as this team has been, and Roger and JR have both moved on to other projects. I'm sorry to see them go—it was a joy to work with such consummate craftsmen—but I'm also proud as a peacock of the people I've got to replace them. If there's anyone better qualified to write Spider-Man than Tom DeFalco, I couldn't think of him. Tom edited all four Spider titles for the two years before I took over the reins, and he has an understanding of Spider-Man second only to Stan Lee himself. To smooth the transition, Tom'll be scripting this issue and the next over Roger's plots, then he'll take off on his own. Welcome back, Tom!

Our new artist is a guy by the name of Ron Frenz, and he's certainly no newcomer to the web-slinger's chronicles either. He's been getting his chops down working on MARVEL TEAM-UP for the last few months and was also the penciler behind "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man," a story received by fan and pro alike as one of the best Spider-Man stories in recent years. He brings to Spidey a wealth of dynamics, characterization, and warmth, and maybe just a touch of Ditko. I'm sure you'll love his rendition of the wall-crawler. (And look for that rendition to get better and better as time goes on. Very soon, Ron is going to go from doing pencil breakdowns to doing the tight, finished pencils only he can. Well! I'll see you see!)

With a team like this, things are looking good for everyone's favorite friendly neighborhood Spider-Man! Be here for the excitement!

On another note, in issue #246 we took a big chance with an offbeat tale called "Daydreamers." We wondered what you'd think of it. Well, you let us know. Read on...

Dear Friends,

Just had to drop you a note to thank you for the warm, whimsical, excellent story in Spider-Man #246. The cover was hysterical and the art excellent. But I want to comment on the story.

It was very funny, but sensitively, sort of ruefully funny. I laughed with it rather than at it. Rather than simply lampooning the daydreamers, the story sympathized with them and revealed a lot about their characters, as well (not an easy trick!). The Black Cat wishes for flash and adventure, but rather superficially, no? Bodes ill for a relationship with our more serious hero. J. J. dreams of a sort of macho glory (not for the first time, either). I especially liked the longer, wavier haired he sported as the story progressed. And his jogging later, with

Spidey wondering why the sudden fitness kick qualifies for best throw-away gag in some time. Mary Jane dreams of her own glory, in decidedly "artsy" terms (Woody Allen and Warren Beatty, I love it!), only to awaken on a somber note (soon to be explored, I've no doubt). And Spidey himself? Why, dreaming of acceptance, of course. Perfect!

Finally, the skinny kid episode at the end is classic (indeed mythic—touches the skinny kid in each of us, even us not-so-skinny kids!). If only he knew, right?

Very thoughtful, insightful, and moving. Many thanks.

Gregory Sharpe
219 S. Barrington Ave. No. 322
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Dear Roger,

Ha ha ha ha ha ha. Spider-Man, hee hee. Cary Grant. Ha ha ha ha.

(No name on letter)

Dear Spider Maniacs,

Are you nuts? A whole issue of daydreaming? Talk about a waste of time (and 60c, I might add). So who gives a %?%? If everyone in the comic daydreams? You guys must be demented to do this.

(Don't take this letter seriously. I like to gripe.)

Bill Abbott
413 N. Ch. St.
Mtn. City, TN

Dear Tom and fellahs,

Re: your request that we let you know our feelings about "Daydreamers," AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #246: frankly, I was pretty heartily disappointed. As a past occasional reader who's just started buying AMAZING SPIDER-MAN regularly, issues like #246 put me off my feed, as it were. I buy Spider-Man to see him valiantly battle his fascinating opponents and juggle his super hero status with his equally interesting life as Peter Parker. Character insights like those provided in #246 are all well and good but, (call me a child of the television age, if you will) I like action and progression, and I think insights and character development can be provided within the frame of exciting Spider-Man adventures without sacrificing action. I'm dying to know, for instance, what's going to happen with Spider-Man and the Black Cat, and this issue, while it teased, did not move that storyline along at all, nor any other storyline, for that matter.

Far be it from me to take the part of the stuffy, close-minded conservative standing in the way of innovation, but, please, don't get away from the basics that made SPIDER-MAN such a great comic in the first place.

Ryan F. Holznagel
1610 Main Street
Forest Grove, OR 97116

Dear Guys,

"Daydreamers?" It was a beautiful story. It really mellowed me out and made me think. It's sad how many people find so little fulfillment in their real lives. It touched me. You should never be afraid to print something that will make people think. Thanks.

Sarah H.
Uvalde, TX 78801

Thank you, Sarah. As a matter of fact, we even made MARVEL UNIVERSE editor Mark Gruenwald think with this one. And if you think that was easy...

Dear Marvel,

Lately, with story titles like "Options," "Ordeals," "Confrontations," and "Daydreamers," you're really taking the thrill out of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. What ever happened to titles like "Now Will-o-the-Wisp Shall Have His Revenge," and "To Fight the Unbeatable Foe," and "Now Strikes the Hobgoblin," or "Look out, There's a Monster Coming?"

Rich Henn
R. D. #1
Rexville, NY 14877

I don't know, Rich. If you find out, let me know. Last we saw, they all went out for a long lunch and never came back!

Dear Danny,

Now, why would JJJ be carrying a gym bag? Maybe to carry around a Hobgoblin suit.

Eddie Alves
Orcville, CA 95965

Dear Tom,

The Hobgoblin can only be Ben Urich

Guys,

It's gotta be Black Cat's ex-boyfriend. I know it! It's gotta be!

Mikey Boussom
Sitko, AK 99835

Roger Stern,

YOU are the Hobgoblin!

(Name Withheld)
34 Kentwood Drive
Rochester, NY 14626

Dear Spider-greats,

It's either Harry Osborn (and Donovan was the Hobgoblin when Harry was at the stockholders' meeting) or a totally new character altogether.

This is bigger than who shot J. R.!

Zack Taylor
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

What do you mean? Nobody shot John Romita, Jr. I told you: he had other projects to work on, like the X-MEN.

And so it goes. After this issue, I'm beginning to wonder if we're ever going to find out who the Hobgoblin was. I mean, he's lying dead at the bottom of the Hudson river, right? Nothing left of him but his mask, right? Still, I can't seem to shake this nagging doubt... nah! No one could have survived that explosion, right? RIGHT?

NEXT ISSUE: No, you won't find out where Spidey has vanished to. To do that, you'll have to pick up the MARVEL SUPER HEROES: THE SECRET WARS Limited Series. But you will discover what happens to Spider-Man when he returns, complete with a new outlook on life and a new... but that would be telling!

Danny Fingeroth

Bullpen Bulletins

"... MARVEL'S DARKEST HOUR!"

That's what one guy from Oil City, Pennsylvania, called our recent Assistant Editors' Month. On the other hand, a correspondent from Tulsa, Oklahoma thought that the assistants "... should trade jobs with the Editors! They're more imaginative!" No one's been shy about commenting, that's for sure. We've gotten record amounts of mail regarding That Weird Month, and everywhere I go, people mention it to me. An officer at the Manufacturers Hanover Trust, where I have my savings account, walked up to me in the bank the other day and gave me his opinion—he loved it! While I was in Florida visiting the wonderful folks at Adventure International, a computer game designer named John Anderson and the company's founder, Scott Adams, himself (who is to computer gaming what Stan Lee is to comics!) brought it up—two more positive reactions. Letters are still pouring in, and it's too early to render the final verdict, though. Meanwhile, the Assistant Editors are slinking around here like turkeys the week before Thanksgiving...

EVERYONE'S WONDERING...

...just what was it that all the Marvel Editors were doing that kept them away during August, creating the need for Assistant Editors' Month in the first place.

Well, it was strictly business... sort of. Here's what we did...

Sunday evening, July 31st—We arrived in San Diego, picked up our four Chrysler LeBaron convertibles from Hertz, and checked into the luxurious Executive Hotel.

Monday, August 1st—Brunch in the hotel restaurant. All are present and accounted for: Myself, Tom DeFalco, Denny O'Neil, Larry Hama, Louise Jones, Mark Gruenwald, Ralph Macchio, Bob Budiansky, Carl Potts, Danny Fingeroth, and official photographer Vince Colletta.

We plan strategy. At 12:30 p.m. we drive to

Night and Day Formal Wear in Fashion Valley to pick up our tuxedos. Spider-Man joins us and clowns around trying on jackets and cummerbunds over his Spider-Man suit. Who is this guy? At 3:00 p.m. we head for Mission Beach. An unexpected interruption—we're pulled over by two San Diego motorcycle policemen. They want to know why Spider-Man's in town. We talk. They end up cheerfully giving old web-head a ride on one of their motorcycles. On the beach at last, we hold an Official Business Meeting in the surf to discuss the upcoming Sub-Mariner Limited Series. It does enhance the mood. Meanwhile Spider-Man is mobbed by civilians on the beach until he finally disappears again. Later, we meet for dinner at La Casa Bandini, a superb Mexican restaurant, in The Old Town.



Tuesday, August 2nd—Brunch again, then clad in our tuxes we motor off to Sea-world. We make our way to the penguin house where, again, Spider-Man mysteriously appears. In our penguin-like attire, surrounded by penguins, we meet to discuss the upcoming Iceman Limited Series. Again, the mood is enhanced.

Spider-Man, meanwhile, as at the beach, is mobbed. Eventually, to prevent his being literally crushed by admirers, he ducks into a nearby building and vanishes! Who is this guy in the webbed suit? That evening, Publishing Vice President Mike Hobson, who's also in town, gathers us up and takes us off to a fantastic meal on the Reuben E. Lee, a riverboat restaurant floating in San Diego Harbor. Mike, a glibbie guy, seems to be convinced that our "meetings" thus far are serious business, indeed. But, is he really convinced?

Wednesday, August 3rd—Brunch, and then off to the beach at Coronado, where we take lots of photos and Carl Potts

teaches us how to body surf. That evening, some of us go out to an elegant Italian dinner while the rest chow down at Taco Bell and roar off to a drive-in movie.

Thursday, August 4th—Brunch. Then, the San Diego Comiccon begins at the San Diego Convention Center. Archie Goodwin and Allen Milgrim, the last of our crew, finally arrive. Now, with every single Marvel editor present, we sit en masse at the snazzy Marvel booth in the main room answering questions and reviewing portfolios. Later, Tom DeFalco, Ralph Macchio, and Vince Colletta head for the airfield—we've hired a plane to fly above the city trailing a banner that reads "MARVEL COMICS—THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!" and they're going to oversee the operation. Darned if Spider-Man doesn't turn up there, too, insisting on flying the plane. We've got to find out who it is that costume! We start listing suspects, trying to see who isn't around whenever "Spider-Man" is. It has to be one of the Marvel artists in attendance pulling a fast one. Joe Rubinstein? Bill Sienkiewicz? Art Adams? Paul Smith?

Friday, August 5th—Another Brunch, then more convention appearances. There's a lot of swimming, jet-skiing, and body surfing going on in between things though. A few editors take the trolley to Tijuana for a while. That night there's a huge, official Marvel Comics party held in my suite. It's expected to take up the whole fourth floor of the hotel.

Saturday, August 6th—Another brunch, more convention activities, more quick trips to the beach, more parties.

Sunday, August 7th—The penultimate brunch in San Diego. The convention winds down. We're pretty wound down, too, but "Spider-Man's" identity is secret no longer! Bill Sienkiewicz tips his hand—while wearing the costume, in the hotel lobby, he signs an autograph for a fan in the hotel lobby "Spider-Man." Aha!

Monday, August 8th—The last brunch, and on to Los Angeles.

I'd love to tell you about that leg of the trip—especially about the Incident at Disneyland—but we're out of space. Next month! Hang in there!

Jim Shooter

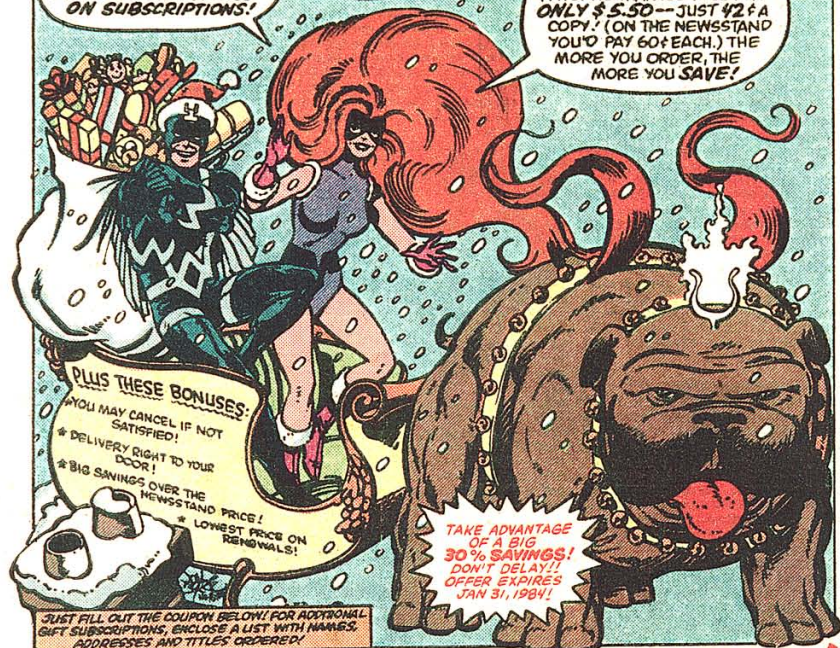
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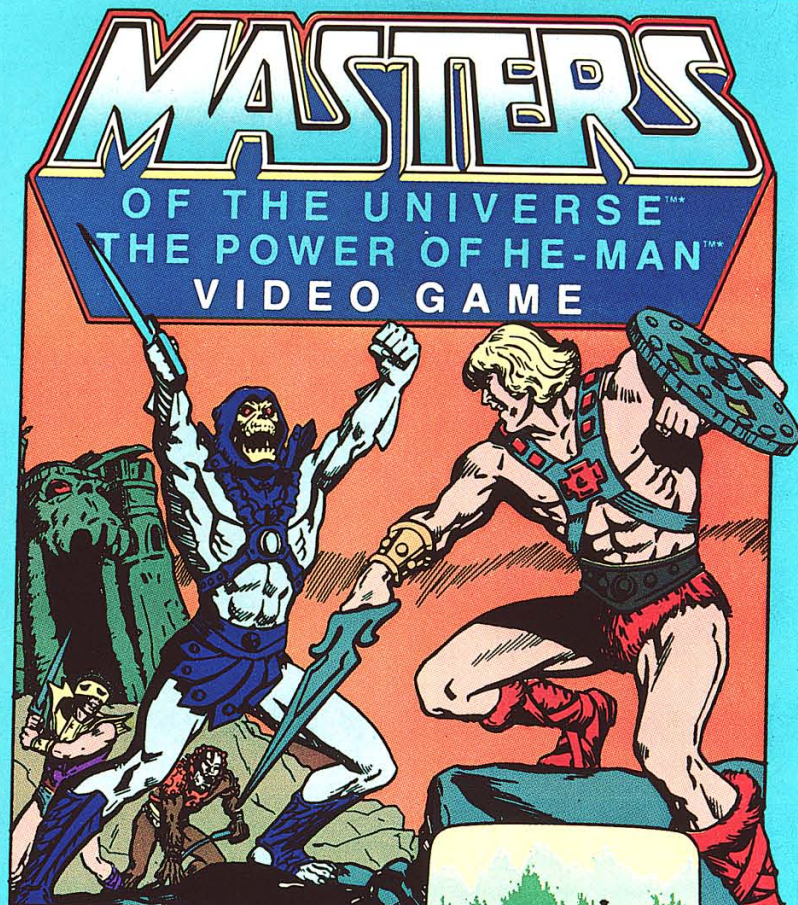
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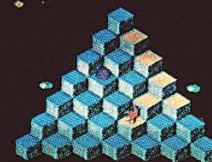


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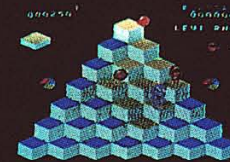
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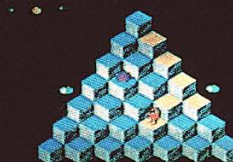
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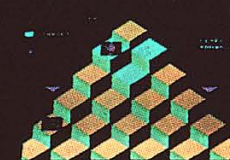
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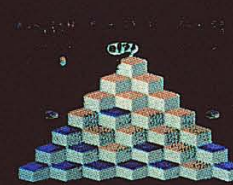
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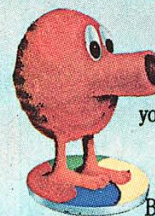


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